

September 14, 2005

STENEHJEM ANNOUNCES METH SUMMIT

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem today announced that he is presenting a summit in Minot on October 25, 2005, focusing on methamphetamine (meth) in North Dakota.

The one-day workshop will offer training and education opportunities to law enforcement officers, treatment and addiction counselors, social workers, and prosecutors, and will address a variety of topics ranging from detection and hazards of meth labs to community prevention and treatment strategies.

“Legislation to restrict the availability of over-the-counter medicines needed to manufacture meth has already resulted in a dramatic reduction in the number of labs,” said Stenehjem. “We must build on this success by combining enforcement with effective treatment, prevention and education programs.”

Dr. Gordy Leingang, an Emergency room physician with St. Alexius Medical Center in Bismarck, will share first-hand experiences of life-and-death situations with meth addicts and the devastating effects of the drug. Dr. Kitie Freier, Associate Professor of Psychology & Pediatrics at Loma Linda University & Children’s Hospital in Loma Linda, California and member of the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children will discuss the impact on children exposed to manufacturing, use, or trafficking of meth in their homes.

In addition to the general sessions, there will be several concurrent sessions focusing on meth from different perspectives. These sessions will identify and track the problems associated with meth from beginning to end, covering prevention, detection of meth labs, detoxification of addicts, prosecution of meth cases, and rehabilitation and treatment needs of addicts.

The summit is free but pre-registration is required. Registration information is available from the Attorney General’s website at www.ag.state.nd.us.

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